

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9800

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, IT

SUBJECT: CVIAIR - CONSULTATIONS WITH GOI

REF: STTE 44016

1. IF WASHINGTON AGENCIES FIND IT DIFFICULT SQUEEZE ITALIANS INTO "OTHERWISE HEAVILY COMMITTED NEGOTIATING SCHEDULE," EMBASSY SUGGESTS WE CONSIDER SPLITTING TALKS. PARA 5(B) MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) REQUIRES CAPACITY TALKS BEGIN NOT LATER THAN MARCH 14, WHILE CONSULTATIONS UNDER ARTICLE 11(A) OF US-ITALY AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT NEED NOT BEGIN BEFORE APRIL 22. WE MIGHT BE ABLE SECURE POSTPONEMENT OF ARTICLE 11(A) CONSULTATIONS BEYOND PERIOD SPECIFIED THEREIN, BUT CAPACITY TALKS MUST BE OVER WELL BEFORE IATA SUMMER SEASON BEGINS ON APRIL 1. EMBASSY BELIEVES CAPACITY TALKS MIGHT BE SQUEEZED INTO LONG DAY, CERTAINLY NO MORE THAN TWO WORKING DAYS. ARTICLE 11(A) CONSULTATIONS WILL REQUIRE MORE TIME TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS.

2. IF WE PROPOSE DEFINITE DATES FOR BOTH 5 (B) AND 11 (A) CONSULTATIONS, EMBASSY BELIEVES GOI MIGHT ACCEPT DUAL APPROACH IF IT IS OTHERWISE IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND TIME. EMBASSY HAS NOT RPT NOT APPROACHED GOI ON THIS SUGGESTION AND PREFERS, AS DOES GOI, HOLD BOTH SIMULTANEOUSLY.

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3. GOI DESIRES DISCUSS MOU LANGUAGE DISCREPANCEIS AND EXTRA SECTION/WET LEASE SITUATION, AND ALSO HAS OUTSTANDING REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS ON HARMONIZATION OF US AND ITALIAN CHARTER REGULATIONS. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT USG ADVISE GOI IT WISHES DISCUSS UNDER ARTICLE 11(A):

- 1) MOU LANGUAGE DISCREPANCIES;
- 2) EXTRA SECTIONS;
- 3) CIVILAVIA ITC REGULATIONS;
- 4) ROME AIRPORTS GROUND SERVICES;
- 5) LANDING FEES AT ROME AIRPORTS;
- 6) USE OF FIUMICINO AIRPORT BY CHARTER FLIGHTS;
- 7) TRAVEL GROUP CHARTERS (TGC);
- 8) MINIMUM CHARTER FARES.

4. WE OBVIOUSLY NEED RESOLVE MOU LANGUAGE DISCREPANCIES AND NEED TO RESTORE RECIPROTICY TO EXTRA SECTION TREATMENT. PROBLEM ON ITC REGULATIONS IS THAT CIVILAVIA REQUIRES PASSENGER LIST BE SUBMITTED AT LEAST 60 DAYS PRIOR DEPARTURE WHILE CAB PERMITS SALES UP TO TIME OF DEPARTURE. RESULT IS NUMEROUS EMPTY SEATS ON ITC FLIGHTS TO ITALY. GOI WOULD LIKE CAB AUTHORIZE ONE-STOP ITC. MINIMUM ITC PRICE IS ALSO DIFFERENT IN US AND ITALIAN REGULATIONS. ROME AIRPORTS GROUND SERVICES SITUATION DEISCUSSED IN ROME 2614.. EMBASSY BELIEVES WE SHOULD CONFIRM OFFICIALLY THAT ALITALIA NOW PAYING LANDING FEES AT ROME AIRPORTS AND ASK FOR DESCRIPTION OF MECHANISM BY WHICH PAYMENTS MADE. DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT OF FOREIGN CARRIERS IN USE FIUMICINO FOR CHARTER FLIGHTS CAUSES FINANCIAL HARDSHIP FOR US CARRIERS. WE SHOULD EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF GOI ACCEPTING TGC AFTER THIS YEAR IN ORDER OPEN UP ITALIAN CHARTER MARKET. SINCE TGC TIED, AT LEAST AS FAR AS ALITALIA AND GOI CONCERNED, TO "SATISFACTORY" MINIMUM CHARTER PRICE, WE MIGHT EXPLORE LEVEL OF SUCH PRICE AND MEANS WHEREBY IT MIGHT BE IMPLEMENTED. VOLPE

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